Development, Health, Law, Finance and Commerce. The Group of Ministers should include a few eminent industry leaders to help in obtaining non-governmental inputs. The responsibility of this ministerial group would be to create a new vision for bringing India online through e-services and the Project Director shall ensure cross-departmental coordination of existing efforts that are being executed at the State and Central level as well as new initiatives in four areas: e-governance in Central Government processes and system, e-education, e-health, and e-governance by State Governments with possible funding from the Central Government. Having created that vision, s/he would be the nodal point of execution and coordination to make sure that the initiatives are implemented in a timely fashion, and goals are met.

E-post and e-bill post

2428. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether new initiatives like 'e-post' and 'e-bill post' have been introduced in the post offices; and

(b) if so, the response from the public and the revenue generated therefrom during the period since the inception of the schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD):

(a) (i) Yes, Sir. E-post has been introduced in post offices throughout the country with effect from 30.01.2004.

(ii) E-bill post has been introduced in post offices with computer facilities identified on the basis of requirement indicated by the billers who wish to avail of this service for collecting bill payments from their customers.

(b) The response from the public and the revenue generated for each of the above initiatives are as under:

(i) The response from the public to use e-post nationwide is improving steadily. The revenue generated from this service from 30.01.2004 to 31.07.2004, is Rs. 3,57,080/-.

(ii) The response from the public to use e-bill post is growing gradually. Under e-bill post, since the date of inception, *i.e.* 31.01.2002 till 31.07.2004, the total bill collection is Rs. 1248.77 crores. The commission earned by the Department is Rs. 39,62,405.00.

Delay in delivery of mails

2429. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that even registered letters are also deliberately delayed for petty tips by postmen in sub-urban areas of North Bihar;

(b) if not, the reasons for delayed delivery of registered letters to the addressees after the lapse of nine/ten days at Bhikhanpura District Muzaffarpur (Bihar) through Khabra post office;

(c) whether it is also a fact that during the month of June, 2004 such cases have been reported in this regard;

(d) whether there were earlier complaints against post office/ postmen of this post office also; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken to prevent such recurrences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) There is no delayed delivery of registered letters after a lapse of nine/ten days at Bhikhanpura, District Muzaffarpur through Khabra post office;

(c) No such case was received during the month of June, 2004.

(d) Only two complaints were received in May, 2004. On enquiry it was found that these letters were delivered to the addressee correctly on the same day of receipt of the letters referred in the complaints.

(e) (i) One Shri Dhiraj Kumar preferred a complaint on 21.05.2004 that Chennai Speed Post Letter No. EE 419501424 IN dated 05.05.2004 was delivered to him on 19.05.2004. On enquiry it was found that the Speed Post under reference was delivered